



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

20 December 2001

The Honorable Bob Stump  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0303

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As required by Title 1, Chapter 1 of the Fiscal Year 2000 Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 106-246, 114 Stat. 511, July 13, 2000), I hereby recertify that, at present, both the integrity and accessibility of the Vieques range are uninterrupted, and that trespassing and other intrusions on the range have ceased. The last statutory certification was provided to the Congressional Defense Committees on September 20, 2001.

Since the September recertification, the range has continued to be available for training consistent with terms of the Presidential Directive of January 31, 2000. The JFK Battle Group training, conducted from September 24 through October 12, 2001, has been the only scheduled training since the previous recertification. The protests and attempted incursions during this period were relatively few, compared with other exercises. This is attributable, at least in part, to a locally declared moratorium on protesting in light of the September 11 attacks.

In accordance with P.L. 106-246, I will continue to update you on the status of our operations on the Vieques range. Similar letters have been sent to Chairpersons Inouye, Byrd, Feinstein, Levin, Hobson, Young, and Lewis. As always, if I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gordon R. England", is written over the typed name and title.

Gordon R. England  
Secretary of the Navy

Copy to:  
The Honorable Ike Skelton  
Ranking Minority Member (Armed Services)